

---

## **7 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION**

### **7.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

An important component of EO 12898 is assuring that all portions of the population have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the development of federal projects regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. CEQ guidance states that agencies should acknowledge and seek to overcome linguistic, institutional, geographic, and other barriers to meaningful participation, and should incorporate active outreach to affected groups.

Public involvement included the creation of a local stakeholders group and holding public open houses. In December 2002, the first public meeting was held at Hillcrest Elementary School and was attended by 13 people who all identified themselves as property/homeowners and members of the Hillcrest Neighborhood Association. On February 26, 2003, a public open house was held and attended by 193 people. Prior to the meeting, advertisements for the upcoming meeting were placed on two occasions in the Idaho Statesman and Idaho Press Tribune. In addition, approximately 9,100 direct mailings were sent to addresses near the project area. On July 29, 2003, businesses near the interchanges were invited to an interchange workshop to identify potential issues. Each business owner/representative was asked:

- Are you familiar with the I-84 Orchard Street to Gowen Road project? Have you attended any of the public meetings for the I-84 Orchard Street to Gowen Road project? How long ago was the last one you attended?
- Who is the owner of your business? Would you like to attend any meetings concerning the proposed improvements to the interchange?
- What are some of your initial concerns or questions that you have about the project?
- Do you have any property accesses that are more critical to your business than others?

No businesses attended the meeting held for the Orchard Street interchange and only one business attended the section for the Vista Avenue interchange, which stated that its primary concerns were maintaining hotel visibility and easy access from I-84 to Federal Way. The Broadway Avenue interchange discussion attracted four businesses. The main concerns of these businesses were construction-related impacts associated with reconstructing the interchange, visibility, truck movement and access to neighboring businesses, and the preference for truck traffic to remain on I-84 and not diverted to an alternative route. The Gowen Road interchange meeting had the highest attendance with 10 businesses present. Generally, concerns from businesses centered on traffic flow and the need for a better designed Gowen Road interchange that can accommodate existing and projected traffic.

On May 17, 2004, a public open house was held. Prior to the meeting, advertisements for the upcoming meeting were placed on at least two occasions in the Idaho Statesman and

---

Idaho Press Tribune. In addition, approximately 9,100 direct mailings were sent to addresses near the project area. As a result of this outreach, a total of 69 people attended the open house. This meeting centered on the interchange alternatives, and as with the first public open house, also had a strong focus on sound wall considerations on the north side of I-84 between the Orchard Street and Vista Avenue interchanges. A survey to assess the potential use of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes was also conducted during the meeting and found that:

- Most people support adding HOV but few people would use them;
- If there is only enough money to add one lane it should be a general purpose lane; and
- The best solution to I-84's congestion would be to construct rail or add additional lanes.

Once a preferred alternative is selected for each interchange, ITD will meet with affected property owners to discuss the preferred alternative's impacts and, if necessary, mitigation. Following the publication of the EA for this project, a public hearing will be held.

## **7.2 AGENCY COORDINATION**

In addition to the public involvement described in Section 7.1, ITD is coordinating with other state and federal agencies, including FHWA. The project introduction and scoping notice describing the proposed project and soliciting comments was sent to permitting and responsible agencies in late 2002.

As a part of the Conceptual Environmental Evaluation completed for the project in February 2003, local, regional, state, and federal agencies were contacted to determine the potential for impacts along the corridor. As the project team has continued to develop more defined alternatives, further agency interaction has occurred to complete the technical reports and EA. Agencies and local agencies involved at some point in the project development process include:

- Idaho Fish & Game Department
- COMPASS
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Division of Environmental Quality - Boise Regional Office
- USFWS - Snake River Basin Office
- Environmental Protection Agency Idaho Operation Office
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Highways Administration

- 
- National Marine Fisheries Service
  - Idaho Conservation Data Center
  - ValleyRide
  - City of Boise (Planning and Airport)
  - Ada County Highway District
  - Boise Board of Control

In addition, the Idaho SHPO and local tribes were contacted. Consultation for cultural resources is described in Section 7.3.

### **7.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSULTATION**

*The Archaeological and Historic Survey Report (2005)* was submitted by ITD to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review and comment. The SHPO concurred with the report's findings, including the eligibility determinations for New York Canal and Pacific Railroad, and project effect. The SHPO submitted a 1502 form to ITD to notify ITD that the project may proceed as addressed in the report and that the project will have no effect on the two eligible properties within the project area.

Since the report was submitted to the SHPO, the project has been slightly modified at the Vista and Broadway interchanges. ITD submitted a letter to the SHPO for their concurrence on the changes at the two interchanges to confirm that the design changes would not affect any identified resources. Because the new designs would have smaller footprints than what was originally submitted to the SHPO and the entire project area has already been surveyed, no impacts to cultural and historic resources are anticipated.

In addition, ITD contacted the Shoshone-Paiute and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation in December 2002 to provide their input and concerns for this project, as part of the consultation process relating to the cultural resource investigation, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

---

## **7.4 DISTRIBUTION LIST**

### **Idaho Fish & Game Department**

600 S. Walnut  
Boise, ID 83712  
Attention: Cal Groen

Cc to:

3101 S. Powerline Rd.  
Nampa, ID 83686  
Attention: Eric Leitzinger

### **US Army Corps of Engineers**

201 North Third St.  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Attention: Brad Daly

Cc to:

750 W. Bannock St., Borah  
Station, Rm 140  
Boise, ID 83702-9998  
Attention: Nicholle Braspennickx

### **COMPASS**

800 S. Industry Way, Ste. 100  
Meridian, ID 83642  
Attention: Erv Olen

### **Federal Highway Administration**

3050 Lake Harbor  
Boise, ID 83703  
Attention: Pete Hartman

### **Idaho Department of Water Resources**

322 E. Front Street  
Boise, ID 83702  
Attention: David Tuthill Jr.

Cc to:

2735 Airport Way  
Boise, ID 83705  
Attention: Erv Ballou

### **National Marine Fisheries Service**

10215 W. Emerald, Ste. 180  
Boise, ID 83704  
Attention: David Mabe  
Cc: Nikki Leonard

### **Division of Environmental Quality - Boise Regional Office**

1410 North Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706-1255  
Attention: Ms. Tony Hardesty  
Cc: Pete Wagner

### **Idaho Conservation Data Center**

600 S. Walnut St.  
Boise, ID 83707  
Attention: Stephanie Mitchell

### **USFWS - Snake River Basin Office**

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368  
Boise, ID 83709  
Attention: Jeff Foss  
Cc: Alison Beck Haas  
Cc: Mark Robertson

### **ValleyRide**

830 N. Main St.  
Meridian, ID 83642  
Attention: Kelli Fairless

### **Environmental Protection Agency Region 10**

1200 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
ECO-088  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Attention: Elan Miller, Regional Administrator, Region 10

Cc to:

1435 N. Orchard  
Boise, ID 83706  
Attention: John Olson, Wetland Ecologist